

**TOY DISTRICT/DOWNTOWN INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2009
MINUTES**

BOARD MEMBERS

Present: Howard Klein, Matt Klein, Michael Tansey, and Paul Vert.

Absent: Ernie Doizaki, Richard Gardner, Don Kanner, Richard Meruelo, Larry Rauch, Bill Shinbane, and Mark Shinbane.

STAFF: Celina Mancia, Estela Lopez and Vicky McCormick.

CONSULTANTS: Qathryn Brehm, Ken Coelho and Don Steier.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vert called the meeting to order with a quorum at 12:15pm.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Lopez introduced Faith Otis, office assistant.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M. Klein made a motion to approve the October 27, 2009 minutes, and Tansey seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

IV. FINANCE

Coelho reported that he increased both Toy and DID's delinquency amounts; Toy was increased to \$23,300 from \$12,000; DID was increased to \$179,000 from 80,000. Coelho informed the Board that delinquent assessment revenue plus penalties and interest will continue to be received as it is paid to the City.

Coelho stated that both BIDs will be in line with the budget by year-end and DID should end the year with a \$50,000 cash reserve.

V. OPERATIONS

Toy:

McCormick reported that October through December is holiday season for the District, and it gets very busy. As a result the trash piles up more than usual.

McCormick informed the Board that the maintenance team has attempted to remove graffiti from the roll down doors, but have received a lack of cooperation from the merchants. McCormick informed the Board that the value of cardboard has increased, and as a result the BID maintenance team has picked up less off the sidewalks. Blocking the sidewalk and panhandling increased in October. LAPD aggressive panhandling task force has been working hard to eliminate the issue, however, the holidays and increased pedestrian traffic encourages the panhandlers.

McCormick informed the Board that drug activity increased, mostly marijuana use. Loitering also increased.

McCormick stated that Toy District merchants have been observed dumping their personal trash within the DID boundaries.

DID:

McCormick reported that as a result of the Toy District merchants dumping their trash in DID, the amount of trash bags collected increased from prior months. Pallet pick up increased; blocking the sidewalk decreased from prior months; and the number of shopping carts decreased.

McCormick informed the Board that the BID public safety officers escorted visitors walking Skid Row, primarily teenagers, who come to the area during the holidays to outreach to the homeless. McCormick stated that the amount of tents on the sidewalks in the district increased due to the cold weather.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Lopez reported that CCEA hosted the Toy District Annual Meeting on December 10, 2009, and only one property owner attended.

Lopez informed the Board that she met with Councilman Jose Huizar to talk about various issues that are very important to the BID.

Lopez informed the Board that Richard Gardner, L.A Wholesale Produce Mart, contacted her regarding the overgrown trees around his property. He would like the BID to pay for trimming. Lopez reported that there are 42 trees around the property, and 8 to 10 of the trees have foliage that blocks the lighting. The City is on a 17-year tree trimming delay, unless the trees pose a hazard, but it could still take up to five months in emergency situations.

Lopez expressed that Gardner is one of two owners who have contacted her with complaints about overgrown trees. Lopez stated that other BIDs include tree trimming in their budgets. DID does not. Lopez will request quotes from a few contractors, and research other possible alternatives.

Lopez invited the Board to the public safety and maintenance holiday party on December 18, 2009.

VII. NEW BUSINESS- none.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT- The meeting of the Board was adjourned at 1:00pm.